

REMARKS

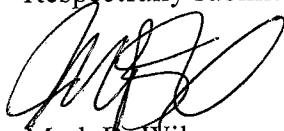
The claims have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer to manage the claims fees. Claims 1-43 have been canceled and claims 44-66 have been added. Support for the new claims is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added by entry of this preliminary amendment. Applicants retain the right pursue the subject matter as originally claimed at a later stage in this application or in future applications.

The filing fee has been calculated after amendment of the claims by the preliminary amendment.

It is believed that no fee is due with this communication, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/ESSR:127US.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark B. Wilson
Reg. No. 37,259
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 474-5201

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